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News Release

ICE SPECIAL AGENTS ARREST DOCTOR ON CHILD PORN CHARGES

Midland pathologist was focus of year-long investigation

MIDLAND, Texas—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested Dr. Morgan C.D. Dyer here Thursday and charged him with possessing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

A federal grand jury indicted the 60-year-old pathologist Wednesday.

ICE special agents arrested him about 10:30 a.m. yesterday without incident with the assistance of the Midland County Sheriff's Department patrol deputies. The arrest was the result of a year-long investigation.

According to court documents, on or about Nov. 3, Morgan possessed a computer that contained explicit child pornography. The images were shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce via the Internet.

"Child pornography offenses are committed by repulsive individuals in all walks of life, and ICE is committed to pursuing all of these cases equally aggressively to protect innocent children who are victimized by a horrific industry," said Peter Smith, special agent-in-charge ICE's El Paso office.

The offense, which involved more than 10 images but less than 150, is a felony punishable with a maximum sentence of 10 years confinement, a \$250,000 fine, and three years supervised release.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

This investigation and arrest are part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive Department of Homeland Security initiative to protect young people from child sex tourists, human smugglers and traffickers, child pornographers and international child sex tourists.

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Operation Predator draws on the full spectrum of intelligence, investigative, cyber, and detention and removal functions of ICE to target those who prey on children. Since Operation Predator began in July 2003, ICE has made more than 4,400 arrests nationwide.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or http://www.cybertipline.com.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.